The Brethren Evangelist.

PUBLISHED AT THE BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE.

"Let Us go on Unto Perfection."

TERMS, $1.50 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

VOLUME IX. ASHLAND, OHIO, APRIL 27, 1887. NUMBER 17.

Peniel.—Gen. 32: 24-32.

BY MARY WATERS.

To be alone with God this night,
To pray him in distress,
To guard me from besetting foes
That thickly round me press.

My lips but moved in prayer to God,
My heart though terrified,
Was scheming for its own release
And wandering from his side.

He strove to bring me near to him,
To teach my soul he strove,
But pride and self the barriers were
That keep me from his love.

He plead with me till daylight broke,
My pride still stood at bay,
He touched me with his gentle love:
The barrier passed away.

In tenderest mercy he forbore
To wound me in his might.
His gentlest touch so weakened self
It withered from his sight.

But when that weaker self had shrunk,
A stronger power availed,
The power of faith the blessing asked.
The prayer of faith prevailed.

Oh sovereign mercy thus to spare
The weakness of our strength,
To hold us in thy mighty arms
Till we are thine at length.

—*Independent.*

Huntington, Ind.

This Sabbath morning I will pen the readers of the EVANGELIST a few words of explanation. I am in receipt of a letter from J. H. Worst, stating that he was sorry that he could not call on his way home. We were in the same frame of mind Bro. John. We are only about 35 miles direct from Milford. So we will give you another opportunity this fall. Bro. Worst closes his letter expressing his approbation of the manner in which our church property case was settled, and expresses himself as being in a mystery as regards the case, and asks these pointed questions. Are the German Baptist better there than elsewhere? Are the Brethren better? Or are both better? I would have replied to Bro. Worst privately in a pointed way, and said "come and see." But still the mystery as to the leading features of the case, remain to be solved, which I shall do as well as surroundings permit. I may have to cut this explanation short, and reserve some for the future, but will make it plain if it takes all summer. For in summer I have more room for such pen productions, as I usually give, owing to the fact, that our able writers get affected by the rays of the sun, in such a way that they write less frequently.

The Huntington church was organized years ago, brought about by the too rigid enforcements of the decisions of annual meeting, so that at least a number that went into that organization were of the opinion that the Bible was enough to govern a church in all things. After laboring together for a number of years in harmony and love, we grew from 40 to a church of about 160 members, and it seemed just as we were making the arrangements to build a house, we got trouble among us. The Congregational Brethren withdrew about that time. Financially we were weak, and owing to a former attempt to get up a subscription for building, I learned of that weakness. Hence it was a union house, or no house at all, at that time. I wrote the article myself and if there is any censure or blame I assume it.

The governing feature in substance was this, said house to be owned and controlled by the German Baptists; but free for all orthodox Christian societies, when not occupied by them. Through neglect the deed to the ground was not recorded, and it changed hands several times. Once it was in the hands of an innocent purchaser, and lastly it was owned by a justice of the peace, and he voluntarily told me that his wife would not sign the deed to quiet that title unless the German Baptists would live up to that article and made us a quit claim deed. We got it in record before they did theirs, a meeting of our trustees met at Brother C. Henlines to council with them in the matter. A proposal was made for a joint deed. It was accepted, as at all events they would have to open the house for us. Thus ended an unpleasant controversy and had it not been for the unwholesome council of elders, especially one from the east, I do not think it would have assumed the form it did. The Huntington church is not a radical one, and whenever Annual Meeting is willing to do what the Huntington church has done, retain its history and transmit its doings to the flames, then there will be a jubilee.

R. K. BINKLEY.

Maurertown, Va.

April 9th.—This week ended with four additions; one in Rockingham Co., three in this congregation. Our meeting at Union, this charge, was closed to attend communion in an adjoining district, in Bro. Bowman's charge, at which place about one hundred and seventy communicants surrounded the table. It was one of the most impressive occasions I ever attended. All apparently enjoyed the feast of love. Quite a number of young people were among the number; and as we, passing round the table, observed a little girl, sitting beside, as we supposed, her mother, who received the broken bread and cup, which I supposed was a mistake. But a nod from a brother was sufficient to say she is a little sister in Christ. How it did enthuse us. After the congregation was dismissed I could not refrain from pressing through the crowd to welcome and encourage her on this life's voyage. At the tender age of ten and quite diminutive at that, she is sailing homeward to the Father's house. Mothers, by no means discourage your children at an early age. A few weeks past, a small girl at the age of 14 came forward for baptism, and her mother thought she was too young. *Let them come and "forbid them not," for the longer they travel the road of sin, the louder, apparently, the call must be. A good moral man of about 50 years told me he would advise all to attach themselves to a church at the first call, for now he could not feel the desire he once had for religion. Poor fellow, I am afraid he is expecting too much. I have talked to him, I prayed in his behalf, and still he is vibrating between life and death.

*Yes, brother, let them come, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.—Ed.

Next week I will go to a section where the doctrine, as taught and practiced by the Brethren, perhaps, never was preached. However we have one faithful sister there, who attended some meetings in this section and was baptized and now has gone home. But she desires the gospel alone to sound that others may find peace to their troubled minds.

E. B. SHAVER.

Gratis, Ohio.

Another Easter Sunday has rolled o'er our heads, and an other glorious sermon heard. What a pleasure it is to listen to such grand sermons our brother M. can preach. Certainly his calling is a grand one, bringing poor souls home, where they can be fed with the bread of life, and have the blessed assurance of a home beyond the grave. I fear we are all too careless about the precious souls that know no God. Oh could we pour showers of the grand truth upon them, and show them that the life of a Christians is the life to lead. "Some say joining church spoils all the enjoyment of this life." Oh, poor, weak minded soul you know not what real enjoyment is until you do give your heart to Christ. Then you can see the great mistake of your life.

How can you listen to the blessed word and not believe; when we know the end is drawing nearer every day of our lives. We are kneeling on the edge of time; how our lives should be directed to the cause of our Master. We, who have children, want them saved; but we must set the example. How careful we should be that our lives would be a guide for our children. But how many of us will fall short? Ah, many I fear.

Our church house will soon be commenced, but we need a little more material yet: nerve go ahead, wide-awake, and a little more cash. These seem to bother us quite a good deal. Now brethren and sisters we must all remember that we want a church. What if we do have to sacrifice a little. We could afford to put off a few things for a church. All we need is faith, and be in good earnest. When we go to build a dwelling house, we are in a hurry for fear the snow and storms will overtake us. We should be the same thing in building a church. We want to hurry it up a little or we will have no shelter when winter comes.

But let us trust in our worthy Captain; he our floating bark will guide.

OMA E. STOVER.

Gratis, Ohio.

Middleport, Ind.

We are always very anxiously waiting to hear the good news each week; the soul-cheering words of our brethren and sisters, and the good news of souls coming to Christ. Would to God that the EVANGELIST were read in every family in the land. What a great amount of good could be accomplished for Christ and his cause.

We have had a good time and a general awakening up at this place of late. The cause of our Master is still progressing onward, for which we thank God and take courage.

Bro. Rittgers, of South Bend, came to us on March 22nd, and preached an able sermon, after which our pastor, L. W. Ditch, was ordained Elder by the unanimous consent of all present. Bro. George Neff was also present with us. Bro. Irvin has moved in our midst, and commenced preaching Christ's gospel in its purity. He does not shun to declare the truth as it is in Christ. He began the third of April and continued till the eighth, then Bro. Price dropped in and gave us four able discourses. He is an old veteran of the cross, a zealous worker for the Master and has worked in the Lord's vineyard for forty years. May the Lord bless him in his declining years, and may a crown of glory await him in that better land, for he has earnestly served his Master in this life. The meeting was then continued by L. W. Ditch, until the 14th. The immediate result was two by relation. May God's richest blessing rest and abide with them and may they ever be found in the service of the Master. A good interest was manifested throughout the meetings. We organized a Sabbath school, the tenth of April. We have a union Sabbath School and all are deeply interested in the work. Our prayer is that the love of God and his Holy Spirit rest in every heart that meets in our Sabbath school from time to time, that a good work may be done and souls brought to Christ.

SUE M. STUTSMAN.

Items from the West.

The meeting I held with the brethren at Silver Creek, near Falls City, Neb., was a pleasant one. The church at this place is in a prosperous condition, having a membership of over one hundred. Many of the brethren in this church are getting blessed with this world's goods; but I am happy to say they are just as liberal with it as the Lord has prospered them.

Today, April 17th, I received a nice donation from a brother living near Falls City, Neb., by the hand of J. Lichty. God bless the donor. True charity is an active principle. It is not properly a single virtue, but a disposition residing in the heart, as a fountain whence all the virtues of benignity, candor, forbearance, generosity, compassion, and liberality, flow as so many native streams. From general good will to all, it extends its influence particularly to those with whom we stand in nearest connection. A people that are so liberal in support of the good cause, the blessed Christ will prosper.

HOLMESVILLE, NEB.—At this place, we held meeting a few days until we organized a Brethren church.

During our stay here I had the pleasure of attending the infair of Mr. Edwin S. Miller, formerly of Iowa. The infair took place at brother L. S. Kiem's on March 14th, '87.

ROCKWELL CITY, KANS.—Held meetings at this place a few days. The immediate result of the meeting, Keylon Heckman, a minister of the G. B. church, united with us, a man of good standing and of good influence. He had been Secretary of the Burbon College, Ind.

By the United consent of the church, brother M. Lichty and Keylon Heckman were ordained elders of the Brethren church, at Rockwell City, Kansas, on the 31st day of March '87.

BEATRICE.— April 4th, I solemnized the rite of holy matrimony between David Abbott and Fannie Miller, daughter of U. W. Miller, at 8:30 in the presence of 72 witnesses.

On the morning of the 5th boarded the train at 11:30 a. m. Arrived at Hudson the 6th, 1 p. m.

JOHN NICHOLSON.

Mulberry, Ind.

April 17th.—We had our business meeting at Edna Mills the 2nd of April. We expected Bro. Rittgers to come, as he is our elder, but for some cause he did not come. The church then chose Bro. J. A. Miller for chairman of the meeting, and the business that came before the meeting was disposed of with the best of feeling. We expect to have a love feast in the near future. Bro. J. A. Miller preaches for us. He is a young minister and a very good speaker. He intends to go to Ashland College next winter.

The carpenters have commenced on our new church. We expect to have it completed in a few months.

ESTHER METZGER.

North Star, O.

We have just bought the M. E. church property at this place, and only lack a few dollars of having good subscription enough to pay for it. Now if we could get the services of some evangelist to preach for us for a while and devote his time to our good and the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom here, we would most gratefully accept it. We pledge food and shelter to every brother who will offer his services, reserving only the privilege of rejecting a superfluous number at a time. Who of our brethren who live within reach of us will respond? North Star is in the north end of Darke Co., O.

A. PEARSON.

O Lord, thou knowest how busy I must be this day! If I forget Thee, do not Thou forget me.—Sir Jacob Ashley.